

March 19, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Representatives of Western Wireless Corp. ("Western Wireless"), made the following separate *ex parte* presentations:

- March 12; Mikal Thomsen and Mark Rubin met with Commissioner Abernathy and her advisor, Matt Brill.
- March 12; Mikal Thomsen and Mark Rubin met with Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and his advisors, Lisa Zaina and Barry Ohlson.
- March 17th; Mikal Thomsen and Mark Rubin met with Chairman Powell and his advisors, Marcia McBride and Bryan Tramont.
- March 17th, John Stanton, Mikal Thomsen and Mark Rubin met with Commissioner Martin and his advisor, Sam Feder.
- March 18th, John Stanton, Mikal Thomsen, Gene Dejordy and Mark Rubin met with Commissioner Copps and his advisor, Paul Margie.

These presentations covered pending matters included in the docket referred to above and specifically, on issues raised in the Public Notice, "Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment on Certain of the Commission's Rules Relating to High-Cost Universal Service Support and the ETC Designation Process," CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03J-1 (released Feb. 7, 2003); also briefly discussed was the "equal access" issue raised in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03-13 (released Feb. 25, 2003).

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rubin
Director of Federal Government Affairs
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